

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**LEGAL ADVOCACY GROUPS AND RESOURCES  
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>**

**American Bar Association**

**Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law**

740 15th Street, N.W., 9th Floor

Washington, D.C. 20005

**(202) 662-1570**

**(202) 662-1032 - FAX**

Website: [cmpdl@abanet.org](mailto:cmpdl@abanet.org)

The ABA's Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law (Commission) was established to promote the ABA's commitment to justice and the rule of law for persons with mental, physical, and sensory disabilities and to promote their full and equal participation in the legal profession. The Commission offers access to a list of attorneys who handle disability related matters.

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**Central Virginia Legal Aid Society**

10 Bolling Brook Street

Petersburg, Virginia 23803

**(804) 796-6765**

The Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. CVLAS may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Children's Law Center**

T. C. Williams School of Law

University of Richmond, Virginia 23173

**(804) 289-8921**

**(804) 287-6489 – FAX**

The Children's Law Center (CLC), affiliated with the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, handles special education law and due process cases in the Richmond Metro Area (including Hanover, Henrico, and Chesterfield Counties). The Center assists low-

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<sup>1</sup> List information was obtained from a number of sources, which included Virginia law schools, legal aid societies, internet listings, etc. This is not an exhaustive list and does not purport to represent all legal advocacy groups or resources which specialize in special education law. Organizations wishing to be added to this list may contact the Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services at (804) 225-2013 (voice) and TDD at (800) 422-1098.

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income families with special education issues and may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Council of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)**

1321 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20003-3027

**(202) 544-2210**

E-mail: [copaa@copaa.net](mailto:copaa@copaa.net)

Website: [www.copaa.net](http://www.copaa.net)

The Council of Parents, Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) offers a list of members who can assist parents of children with disabilities.

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**Endependence Center**

6320 North Center Drive

Norfolk, Virginia 23502

**(757) 461-8007**

E-mail: [cward@endependence.org](mailto:cward@endependence.org)

Website: [www.endependence.org](http://www.endependence.org)

The Endependence Center (EC) offers a referral service for parents who have children with disabilities and are in need of legal assistance. In addition, EC will advise parents in the filing of special education complaints, and represent parents in special education hearings.

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**JustChildren**

c/o Legal Aid Justice Center

617 West Main Street, 3rd Floor

Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

**(434) 977-0553**

**(434) 977-0558 – FAX**

JustChildren (JC), affiliated with the Legal Aid Justice Center, assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson Counties and Charlottesville City. The Center may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Legal Advocacy Center**

4600 Cox Road, Suite 205  
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

**(804) 967-2556**

E-mail: [vcslac@aol.com](mailto:vcslac@aol.com)

Website: [www.virginiaLAC.org](http://www.virginiaLAC.org)

The Legal Advocacy Center (LAC) offers a referral service for parents who have children with disabilities and are in need of legal assistance.

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**Legal Aid Justice Center**

101 W. Broad Street, Suite 11  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

**(804) 643-1086**

The Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC) assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. LAJC may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, The**

416 Campbell Avenue, S.W.  
Roanoke, Virginia 24016

**(540) 344-2088**

**(540) 342-3064 – FAX**

The Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley (LAS-Roanoke) assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. The Clinic may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)**

6320 Augusta Drive, Suite 1200  
Springfield, Virginia 22150

**(703) 923-0010 (Voice/TDD)**

**(703) 569-6200 (in Spanish)**

**(800) 869-6782 (toll free in Virginia)**

**(703) 923-0030 - FAX**

E-mail: [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org)

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Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) assists parents and professionals in translating the legal rights of children with disabilities into genuine opportunities for full participation in school and community life.

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**Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC - Richmond)**

2025 East Main Street, Suite 104  
Richmond, Virginia 23223

**(804) 819-1999**

**(804) 819-1990 – FAX**

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC-Richmond) assists parents and professionals in translating the legal rights of children with disabilities into genuine opportunities for full participation in school and community life.

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**People with Attentional and Developmental Disabilities Association (PADDA)**

813 Forrest Drive, Suite 3  
Newport News, Virginia 23606

**(757) 591-9119**

**(888) 33-PADDA (toll free in Virginia)**

**(757) 591-8990- FAX**

People with Attentional and Developmental Disabilities Association (PADDA), a community-parent resource center based in Newport News, Virginia, Offers counseling and representation services to parents of children with disabilities.

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**Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.**

**Potomac Legal Aid Society**

910 Princess Anne Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

**(540) 371-1105**

**(540) 371-1114- FAX**

E-mail: [rlsfred@erol.com](mailto:rlsfred@erol.com)

Website: [www.users.erols.com/rlsfred/html](http://www.users.erols.com/rlsfred/html)

The Rappahannock Legal Services (RLS) and Potomac Legal Aid Society (PLAS) assist low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. RLS and PLAS may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Richmond Metro Pro Bono Services**

The Bar Association works in participation with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society to recruit and train volunteers from the legal professions for legal services to those unable to afford a lawyer. For additional Richmond Metro Pro Bono services that might be able to offer assistance:

- Henrico Bar Association Pro Bono Volunteers: **(804) 282-8494**
  - Legal Aid Hotline: **(804) 788-8214** or **(804) 788-8395**
  - Virginia Poverty Law Center: **(804) 782-9430**
  - VSB Young Lawyers Board Match: **(804) 897-1515** or **(804) 788-8200**
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**Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society**

227 W. Cherry Street  
Marion, Virginia 24354  
**(540) 783-8300**  
E-mail: [svlas@netva.com](mailto:svlas@netva.com)

The Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society (SWLAS) assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. SWLAS may consider representing parties in neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.**

513 Church Street  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503  
**(804) 528-4722**  
Website: [www.vlas.org](http://www.vlas.org)

Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS-Lynchburg), a nonprofit law firm, provides free civil legal services to eligible low-income residents in 20 counties and seven cities in Central, Southside, and Western Tidewater Virginia. VLAS serves these communities by providing free information, advice and representation in areas that include special education. In addition, VLAS represents and provides legal advocacy to expelled or suspended students with disabilities on issues that include provision of special education services.

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**Virginia Legal Aid Society- Suffolk Office**

140 W. Washington Street  
Suffolk, Virginia 23434  
**(757) 539-3441**

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The Virginia Legal Aid Society (VLAS-Suffolk) assists low-income families with special education law issues and cases in its service area. VLAS-Suffolk may consider representing parties in the neighboring counties on a case-by-case basis.

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**Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA)**

202 N. 9th Street, 9th Floor

Richmond, Virginia 23219

**(804) 225-2042 (Voice/TTY)**

**(800) 552-3962 (Voice/TTY) (Toll-Free in Virginia)**

E-mail: [generalvopa@dsa.state.va.us](mailto:generalvopa@dsa.state.va.us)

Website: [www.vopa.state.va.us](http://www.vopa.state.va.us)

The Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) assists with disability-related problems, such as abuse, neglect, and discrimination. VOPA helps people with disabilities obtain services and treatment. VOPA also provides advocacy services and/or legal representation for individuals, including students with disabilities.

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Website: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/dueproc>

March 8, 2004